

City Council Schedules Vote on Alcohol Sales and Other City Charter Issues

Addison, Texas (August 25, 2010) – The Addison City Council has voted to schedule a November 2, 2010 election to consider proposed changes to the city charter. The council voted to follow the recommendation of the City Charter Review Commission that called for holding an election to allow voters to consider an amendment to the charter that would remove the location restriction of the sale of beer and wine for off-premises consumption.

Addison first approved the sale of alcoholic beverages within the city in 1976 so this is not a wet-dry election. Since 1982, beer, wine and liquor sales for off-premises consumption have been limited by the city charter to a specific geographic area comprising the west side of Inwood Road between the southern Addison city limits and the right-of-way of Belt Line Road. If approved, the charter would no longer restrict the sale of beer and wine for off-premises consumption to Inwood Road.

If this beer and wine amendment is approved by the voters and later challenged and overturned by a court, a concern was expressed that stores that began to sell beer and wine for off-premises consumption following voter approval would have to discontinue those sales. In such an instance and to address that concern, the proposed change includes a provision that would end all charter location restrictions on the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption.

“The consensus of speakers at the public hearing was that the issue should be presented to voters for a decision,” said Addison Mayor Joe Chow. “Voters will have an opportunity to closely study the issue in the months prior to the election so that they can make an informed decision.”

A second proposition placed on the ballot calls for making minor, non-substantive changes to the city charter to clarify language, correct typographical or spelling errors and otherwise make the language more clear and consistent.

A third proposition clarifies language to authorize the city to promote economic development in accordance with State law.

“The exact language for each proposal will be posted on the Addison web site,” said Mayor Chow. “In addition to information on the city’s web site, there will be written communications, meetings and other venues to make sure residents have all the information they need to make an informed decision on these issues.”

Addison residents will be able to see the original charter language as well as the proposed changes on the city web site. In addition, the full report from the Charter Review Commission is also available for review. “These are important issues for our community,” said Mayor Chow. “A fully informed electorate is the best way to decide these issues.”